

You Can Help!

The City of Takoma Park is looking for volunteers. Marking stormdrains is an easy way to stop pollution in your own neighborhood.

You can help our creek and the Chesapeake Bay by attaching “no Dumping!” decals on storm drains in your neighborhood. This message will remind people that only water should flow into stormdrains. Spread the word: storm drains are not trash cans! Let’s keep our streets and rivers clean. Please share this information booklet with your neighbors and friends.

To join the City’s efforts, call the Public Works Department and request a map and curbs markers. Call (301) 891-7633 and become a volunteer.

Safety Precautions

1. Volunteers must wear safety vests.
2. Placing curb markers is prohibited on highways, arterials and other busy streets. Only stormdrains within the City should be marked.
3. Always try to have a companion with you to keep an eye on traffic flow while you work.
4. Stay off the streets and out of traffic lanes while placing a curb marker.

Curb Marking procedures

1. Obtain a registration form, sign and return individual liability waiver to the volunteer coordinator (if you are under 18 years of age).
2. Locate drain inlets based on the map provided, place cone near the inlet to make drivers aware of your presence, use the whiskbroom to clean the curb and wear gloves and dust mask before working.
3. Determine the best location for the marker. The preferred position is on the top of the curve, above the drain inlet.
4. Apply glue along the perimeter of the marker. To avoid smudges, place glue one inch away from the border of the marker. Add two or three lines of glue to the middle section. Do not spread the glue, it is better to press it into the sidewalk.
5. If the curb marker smudges, do not worry, your technique will improve with practice.
6. Please make note of the inlet you just marked along with any discrepancies on the map provided by the City.
7. If you notice oil, paint, or any other substances in the drain inlet, make note of the location and the suspected pollutant and inform the Public Works coordinator of your finding.

Something New Is Happening in Your Neighborhood!



There are some new markers on stormdrains in your neighborhood.



City Of Takoma Park
Department of Public Works
31 Oswego Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Did You Know?

The number one threat to rivers and water bodies comes from untreated storm water runoff. Runoff is washed into stormdrains and the pollution reaches Sligo Creek directly.

What are Stormdrains?

Stormdrains are curbside receptacles whose sole function is to catch rain water and deliver it to an underground stormdrain system-where it eventually flows to nearby creeks and rivers.



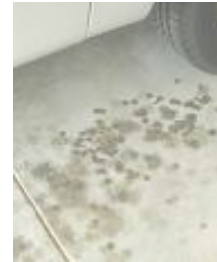
What is Runoff?

Run-off is the most common cause of pollution. When rain or snow falls onto the earth, it does not just sit there - it starts moving according to the law of gravity. A portion of the precipitation seeps into the ground to replenish ground water. However, in developed areas like Takoma Park, most of the rainwater runs into stormdrains and into Sligo Creek.



How does Runoff Become Polluted?

- Motor oil and heavy metals found in used motor oil pose a direct threat to fish and other aquatic life forms. One quart of oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water. Cars create lots of stormwater pollution. Debris from brake pads, tires, and oil leaks accumulate on the streets and create toxic runoff. When possible, walk or ride your bike. If you spill motor oil on your driveway, soak it up with kitty litter, and take it to the Montgomery County household hazardous waste center.
- Yard trash such as pet waste and grass chippings can be washed into stormdrains.
- Sand, salt, and soil from driveways and construction sites contribute to stormwater runoff.
- Pesticides and fertilizer get washed into stormdrains and can be toxic to aquatic life. It takes only a small amount of pesticide to harm fish.
- Some people dispose of soda cans, plastic bags, paint and other hazardous materials directly into drains.



Some Easy Ways to Stop Pollution:

1) Do Not Litter

Litter in all forms enters stormdrains and becomes a death trap for birds, fish, and other wildlife.



2) Compost Yard Waste

Grass clippings and leaves can reduce the need for fertilizers.

3) Take Hazardous Materials to Collection Sites

The Department of Public Works collects used oil, antifreeze, and compact fluorescent light bulbs free of charge at 31 Oswego Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20910. For additional information call (301) 891-7633.

4) Limit Sand and Salt Use

When it comes to using sand and salt for your driveway and steps, do not compromise on safety.

However, try to limit their use because salt poisons rivers and drinking water.



5) Spread the word

Mark stormdrains and share your knowledge to protect our creeks.